

Remarks

In the specification, the identification of items 16d and 18d has been amended to refer to the turbine rotors. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's identification of the inconsistency in the identification of items disclosed on page 5, lines 5 and 13. However, items 16 and 18 refer to the exhaust gas turbines, while items 16d and 18d refer to the turbine rotors. The amendment reflects this distinction.

Claims 1-5 and 8-22 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 7. Claim 7 has accordingly been cancelled. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than now cancelled claim 7. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended into independent form to include the features of claims 1 and 6. New claims 15-18 have been added to depend from claim 8 and reflect the features of claims 2-5. New claims 19-22 have been added to depend from claim 9 and reflect the features of claim 2-5.

No new matter has been added by any of the above mentioned amendments.

Priority Document

Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the priority application, German App. Ser. No. DE 102 32 738.6. It is requested that the file of the subject application be marked to indicate that the requirements of 35 USC §119 have been fulfilled.

IDS

Also submitted herewith are two references referred to in the specification, but not presented in the form of an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant request the Examiner consider these references during Examination.

Arguments

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-14 as being indefinite, has rejected claims **1-3, 5 and 10 as being anticipated by Mendle et al. (US 4,464,902), has rejected claims 4 and 11 as

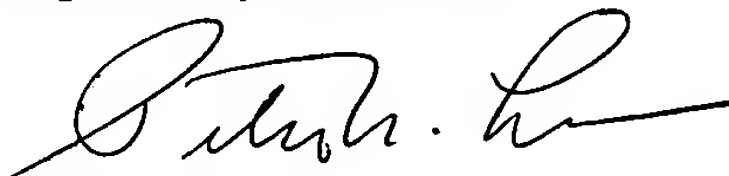
being obvious over Mendle et al. in view of Morita et al. (JP 59160027), and has rejected claim 6 as being obvious over Mendle et al. in view of Lohmann et al. (US 6,202,415). However, the Office Action has also indicated that claims 7-9 and 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112 and to include all of the features of the base and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the claims. Pursuant thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 7 and have amended claims 8 and 9 to be in independent form and to include the features of claims 1 and 6. All remaining claims depend from these three independent claims. The noted indefiniteness noted in the Office Action has also been addressed in the amendments. Thus, Applicants submit that all claims are now allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, Applicant submits that the objections and rejections should be withdrawn and believes the application is in condition for allowance. An early action indication of such is earnestly solicited. However, if there are any issues that remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite a resolution to such issues. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,



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